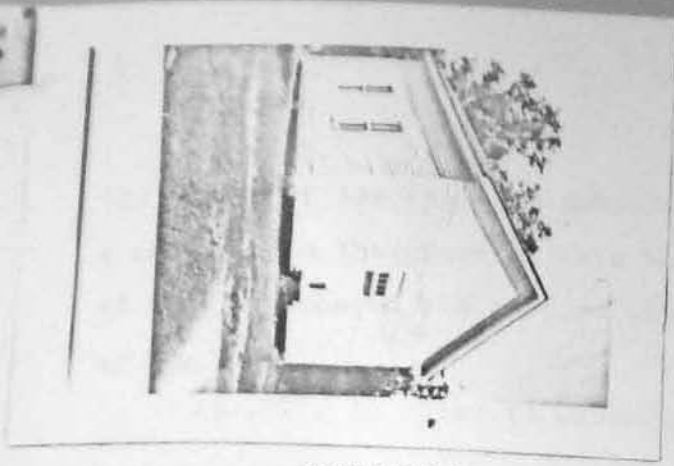

FAIRVIEW M. P. CHURCH

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
POCAHONTAS COUNTY

September 27,1940

Chapter 6 Religion

The first church services of any kind to be conducted in the Fairview community were the Sunday schools held by Mrs. Jacob Warwick of Clover Lick. In the summer her servants would lift her on her horse, and she would ride to a school house near where the Josiah Friel cabin stood. To use the language of one of her scholars, Mrs. Elizabeth McLaughlin, " She would give such good advice. If all would do as she told them, how well it might have been. She was the best woman to raise girls I ever saw, if they would take her advice on how to act and how to do. She has talked to me for hours, and it was often thrown up to me that old Mrs. Warwick made me proud because I tried to do as she advised me."

Her Sunday School was mainly made up of the families of Josiah Brown, John Sharp, William Sharp, and Jeremiah Friel. This was before 1823 as Mrs. Warwick died in that year.

Some time later an old log school house was built about one-half mile below where the church now stands. It was called Verdant Valley. Services were held in this school house until the church was built in 1882.

The Verdant Valley Methodist Protestant society was formed about the close of the Civil War.

Two of the early ministers at this school house were James E. Moore, a local minister who had gotten part of his early religious training at Mrs. Warwick s Sunday School, and Rev.

The people of the Fairview community not many years ago erected a monument to the grave of this beloved minister, though none of them remembered him only as they had heard their parents talk of him.

In 1877, in order to encourage the people to build a much needed church, James E. Johnson and Sally his wife gave to the trustees William E. Sharp, Jacob W. Sharp, John B. Johnson, Benjamin Wilfong and William Harper, trustees, land upon which a church must be erected within five years or the deed would be void. It was deeded to the Methodist Protestants, but was to be open to all orthodox denominations.

* The present church was built by Rev. G. W. Barrett and M. L. Smith. The location is ideal for a country church, which may have suggested the name Fairview. The Friel and Johnson families were prominent members of the early organization, and Hanson Sharp, Mrs Hugh H. Sharp and Benjamin Johnson were active members of the class in 1926 when Dr. Barnes wrote his history. At that time there were about seventy members.

Some of the ~~other~~ early members were: William and Margaret Johnson, Hugh and Mary Jane Sharp, Ewing and Anne Sharp, William and Emily Irvine, Jerry Friel, Newton Friel and Jacob Sharp, Sr. W. T. Hogsett was Superintendant for many years.

Hanson Sharp and his family were the main leaders in this church for about twenty years, but they moved away. Mrs. Mollie Johnson and Mrs. Goshia Sharp are leaders at the present time. also the family of Kessie Moore.

Records show that there were 88 members in this church during the period from 1908 to 1930. The records for 1937 shows 26 members.

Fairview church has witnessed some of the biggest revivals of any place in Pocahontas county. There have been as many as forty conversions at one revival meeting. People came for miles to these old time Methodist meetings. Many walked as far as five and six miles. I have seen as many as ten shouting at one time.

This church has been one of the most active of all of the Methodist Protestant churches, and is still their strongest church. Competent, Christian leadership has been one of the main reasons this church has maintained its influence through the years, though as many people say," Fairview has never been the same since Hanson Sharp and his family moved away."

* History of M. P. churches in W. Va. Barnes

Church records

Deed Book number 25

I talked with about ten people from this community, and I also lived for many years within five miles of this church and have attended their revival meetings.

History of Pocahontas--Price